

Monroe County LEICC Meeting Notes
April 27, 2011

Attendees: Tracey Taylor, Donna Lameldola, Chasa Petroski, Diane Weider, Beth Warner, Jill DeIVecchio, Liz Miller, Mariellen Cupini, Pat Graff, Sharon Shafrir, Chris Hilton, Marjorie Dobra, Vicki Follaco, Kathy McCarthy-Prouix, Liz Balto-Hebert, Rachel Vij, Deb Tetlow, Beth Grier-Leva, Neilia Kelly, Michael Dedee, Nancy Consel, Ann Marie Stephan, Judy Warner

Special Guests: Cindy Kaleh MC Leg 28th Dis., Carrie Andrews MC Leg. 21st Dis., Katie LaShomb Representing Rep. Louis Slaughter, Rich Turner Representing Assemblyman Mark Johns,,

Scribe: Judy Warner, Monroe County Health Department – Meeting started at 10:00 am

Introductions

Chris H. – gave an overview of how EI has helped her and her children.

Tracy – Today’s meeting will be an open dialogue and information sharing.

Ann Marie – Brief Summary regarding the Budget:

- 10% decrease to providers enacted @ 5% effective 4/1/11 – this not in effect yet – state needs to make adjustments and get results of the cost analyst report.
- Not enacted – maximize 3rd party billing insurance reimbursement
- Not enacted – providers who receive \$500,000 need to bill Medicaid directly
- County receives state aid for service coordination – no longer will be receiving effective 7/1/11
- NYEIS – now working, many new processes for staff and providers. No reimbursement until state gets rates fixed.

Open Floor Discussion:

Mariellen – SSLC – Continuum of services, they have been running a deficit for the past 5 years. Programs need to be there for families and children. We need to find ways to make changes. We have not had an increase since 2006, yet state sends out more regulations which in turn causes more paperwork. We are turning away providers due to more paperwork and decreased pay.

Pat G – CP Rochester – Through the EI program it gave her focus, help and a support group. She was shocked at how little state people know about EI and was thankful that the state people are here today. Need to take back information to the legislature, state and assembly people. They have been running a deficit for 10 years. The 5% decrease will make it worse. 62% of graduates from their program last year were receiving less services than before. State mandates are an extra burden with no extra money.

Liz Baltus-Hebert – OT – They only get paid if they see a child. They do not get paid for meetings, travel, etc. There are no benefits for independent providers. They don’t do it for money, but they still need to pay the bills and it is tougher to do without an increase in money.

Beth Grier-Leva – RECDC – ChildFind is actually looking for children that need services with in 45 days. It is still a business and many are getting out because they don’t have proper reimbursement. They are being asked to provide mandates with quality services with out extra money. This is NOT a 40 hours a week job.

Tracy Taylor – Parent/Chairperson of LEICC – She had a son in EI program for 6 months. It is difficult to incur delays in getting paid. It is very difficult to shift money from where there is none for your family. She said “you do it because you love it” and you never want to leave it. There has been a deficit of OT’s in Monroe County for years. The California EI program ceased to exist and went to more of a medical model. Really need to look at 3rd party reimbursement for the next budget to bring in \$ and allow EI to continue with a different funding source.

Ann Marie Stephan – SCS Coordinator – There are 85 independent and agency providers. We have lost 3 small agencies and a 4th agency kept ECD but dropped EI.

Donna Lamendola – EI Service Coordinator – “We don’t think outside of the box” and by not doing so wastes a lot of money by doing the mandates. This program does so much for parents and children.

Jill DelVecchio – If agencies drop out, what happens to the kids if they have no service? We will start to see more institutions which we worked hard at getting rid of.

Pat Graff – Can’t stress enough how important it is to get children started early, not when they are 5 years old and start kindergarten.

Chris Hilton – Can never make up time, it alters their (children) lives. We need to set priorities and keep voicing about EI. It may cost more now, but you will see results.

Q: Any study done on how much it “costs the state” if child does not have services?

A: Yes – for every \$1 spent, \$7 saved

Q: How much is lost?

Tracy – A00705 – bill in Assembly now that will prevent EI from reducing rates

Deb Tetlow – MC EI Program – Before EI program families went through court system. Can we get data? Unsure. There are more preemies now because there is a better survival rate.

Mike Dedee – MCH Division Manager – There was a meeting in Albany and they need to cut \$90 million dollars. The state regulations prevent us from doing things “out of the box”. Seeing RAP move along and getting something started. Looking for ideas to make changes. The budget prevents us from doing that, lets change the system.

Diane Weider – EI Service Coordinator – No money but we need to do the same thing or more. Mandates won’t let us change.

Discussion re: How often do providers bill. Why won’t County “pay ahead” and then get reimbursed when new rates go into effect? How do providers reconcile once payment is made?

Tracy – Summary – We are very appreciative to have the representatives come today. We need to do the following: 1) help advocate for bills out there 2) 3rd party insurance reimbursement 3) change way we do business

Good-byes to guests

Ann Marie – Department Updates

- NYEIS – issue with user roles if you provide more than one service – effecting agencies, not independents. No progress to report – State working on it. Mike has sent an e-mail to them (State)
- ARRA Funds – Small group working on ideas to use the money. There are opportunities to provide
 - evaluators/eval teams with assessment tools for evaluator to use – if you have ideas/requests send to AMS
 - ideas topics on training – within our community to provide either existing or new training Can parents be added? Ideas – yes. Can we promote our own? Yes – more brochures have been ordered.

Advocacy Center received ARRA funds to do Parent Leadership Training in Rochester May 21st – flyer handed out

Ann Marie – Updates (con’t):

- EI All County Conference Call
 - Expansion to website – EI families in community – never heard of it
 - Webinar on child outcome data – info will be in the state report – suggestion made to forward this information to legislators – Ann Marie said yes definitely.

- Provider Updates
 - Joan Fisher ending her contract
 - Liberty Resources (Liberty Post) acquired ITG – most staff work for Liberty Post now

Mike Dedee – EICC/RAP Update:

- No further updates that what was shared already

Tracy – In the interest of time she asked that the Standing Chairs please e-mail their meeting, participants, etc to her and she will forward to Judy (scribe) for the minutes

Discussion & planning on having provider/parent visit legislators. The following pairings were done:

Assembly:

- Joe Morele (132 dist. Irondequoit/City/Webster) – Mariellen/Tracey
- David Gant (City) – Kathy McCarthy/
- Mark Johns (Fairport/E. Roch. - I visited him Rick came to LEICC) Diane W./
- Brian Kolb (Canandaigua??) –
- Harry Bronson (West side – Churchville/Chili) – Liz/
- Sean Hannah (Henrietta) – Pat

Senate:

- Mike Nizzoleo (Webster/Wayne Cty) – Chasa/Beth
- Joe Robach (Westside) – RCN – Marsha/
- Jim Alessi (Fairport/Pittsford/Irondequoit) – Mariellen/Chris
- George Maziarz (Brockport) – Deb T./

Parents:

- Beth
- Marjorie
- Sharon
- Chris
- Tracey

Next Meeting is July 27, 2011 – Location: Pittsford Library – 24 State Street start @ 10:00am
Meeting after July is: October 26th – Pittsford Library

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm